

## **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** October 26, 2006

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 5:12 p.m.

**ADJOURNED:** 5:49 p.m.

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### ATTENDING MEMBERS

Lonnell Conley, Chairman  
Patrice Abdullah  
Scott Keller  
Dane Mahern  
Mary Moriarty Adams

#### ABSENT MEMBERS

James Bradford  
Ginny Cain  
Angela Mansfield  
Mike Speedy

### **AGENDA**

PROPOSAL NO. 533, 2006 - approves the issuance of one or more series of Indiana Waterworks District Net Revenue Bonds and, if necessary, one or more bond interest rate agreements related to the bonds in an aggregate principal amount of refunding bonds not to exceed \$100,000,000  
"Postpone" until November 9, 2006

Vote: 5-0

PROPOSAL NO. 534, 2006 - approves the issuance of one or more series of Sanitary District Revenue Bonds and, if necessary, one or more series of notes in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$160,000,000  
"Do Pass"

Vote: 5-0

PROPOSAL NO. 535, 2006 - approves an appropriation of \$700,000 in the 2006 Budget of the Department of Public Works, Operations Division (Transportation General Fund), for anticipated overtime, snow and ice removal expense in late 2006 and other supplies  
"Do Pass"

Vote: 5-0

PROPOSAL NO. 536, 2006 - approves an appropriation of \$400,000 in the 2006 Budget of the Department of Public Works, Operations Division (Solid Waste Collection Fund), for overtime expenses incurred in support of snow and ice removal, neighborhood clean-ups, other staffing issues, and to replace funds expended as part of the Weed Enforcement Program  
"Do Pass"

Vote: 5-0

PROPOSAL NO. 537, 2006 - approves a transfer of \$110,000 in the 2006 Budget of the Department of Public Works (Stormwater Utility Management Fund and Sanitation Liquid Waste Fund) to purchase a van and equipment for televising and inspecting storm and sanitation sewers

"Do Pass"

Vote: 5-0

PROPOSAL NO. 538, 2006 - authorizes parking restrictions on Delaware Street from St. Clair Street to 9th Street (Districts 9 and 15)

"Do Pass"

Vote: 5-0

UPDATE on Snow and Leaf Season – Patrick Holdsworth and Margie Smith-Simmons, Department of Public Works

## **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

The Public Works Committee of the City-County Council met on Thursday, October 26, 2006. Chairman Lonnell Conley called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m. with the following members present: Patrice Abdullah, Scott Keller, Dane Mahern, and Mary Moriarty Adams. James Bradford, Ginny Cain, Angela Mansfield and Mike Speedy were absent.

PROPOSAL NO. 533, 2006 - approves the issuance of one or more series of Indiana Waterworks District Net Revenue Bonds and, if necessary, one or more bond interest rate agreements related to the bonds in an aggregate principal amount of refunding bonds not to exceed \$100,000,000

Barbara Lawrence, Executive Director of the Indianapolis Local Public Improvement Bond Bank, stated that in preparing for the committee hearing this evening, staff has reviewed both transactions for Proposal Nos. 533 and 534, 2006, and feel at this time it would be more prudent to ask for a delay on Proposal No. 533, 2006 until the next meeting in order to get all the information correct before action is taken.

Councillor Moriarty Adams moved, seconded by Councillor Abdullah, to "Postpone" Proposal No. 533, 2006 until November 9, 2006. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 534, 2006 - approves the issuance of one or more series of Sanitary District Revenue Bonds and, if necessary, one or more series of notes in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$160,000,000

Ms. Lawrence thanked Indianapolis Clean Stream Team, the Department of Public Works (DPW), and Bond Bank staff for their hard work on this bond issuance. She introduced Katie Aeschliman, Senior Project Manager with the Bond Bank, to explain background on this issuance. Ms. Aeschliman stated that late last year, the Council passed General Ordinance No. 107, 2005, which increased the sewer fees. This sewer bill resulted in the average homeowner seeing an increase of approximately \$2.79 per month each year. The increase began in January of this year, and is estimated to fund nearly \$400 million of projects in the 2006 through 2008 Capital Plan. She said that General Resolution No. 21, 2005 was then passed by the Council to authorize financing for Phase I of the project in the amount of \$160 million. That financing was used for three State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans for: 1) \$90 million, closed in December 2005, 2) \$35.25 million, closed in June 2006, and 3) \$35-40 million, which is on target to close this December. She said that Phase I financing helped to fund the Fall Creek-White River and Pogues Run Tunnel Projects, an interplant connection, a

Belmont Trickling Filter/Solids Contact, the Belmont North Interceptor, and over 6,000 new residential septic tank conversion connections over the next three years.

Ms. Lawrence stated that the proposal before the committee this evening will continue to use proceeds of that rate increase and approves the financing for Phase II of the \$400 million Capital Plan. Proposal No. 534, 2006 approves the issuance of up to \$160 million, which could be issued in open market bonds, additional SRF loans, or capital planning mechanisms (such as commercial paper, bonds, or notes). She said that this bond issuance will insure that capital is readily available to fund the design, planning and construction for projects through 2008. A list of projects is attached to the proposal as Exhibit A.

Councillor Moriarty Adams asked how much the additional sewer fee will fund. Ms. Lawrence said that they anticipate being able to fund up to \$400 million in projects. With this second proposal approving another \$160 million, the total used to date would be up to \$320 million.

Councillor Mahern stated that there are a lot of sewer issues in the community, and in his district in particular. He said that these sewer issues can also cause health concerns and it is important that these projects not be delayed or stopped altogether due to lack of funding. He said that he wholeheartedly supports Proposal No. 534, 2006.

Councillor Abdullah agreed and asked to be added as a co-sponsor to Proposal No. 534, 2006.

Councillor Moriarty Adams moved, seconded by Councillor Mahern, to send Proposal No. 534, 2006 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 535, 2006 - approves an appropriation of \$700,000 in the 2006 Budget of the Department of Public Works, Operations Division (Transportation General Fund), for anticipated overtime, snow and ice removal expense in late 2006 and other supplies

Michael Williams, Chief Financial Officer for DPW, stated that this proposal approves an additional \$100,00 in Character 01 for anticipated overtime with the upcoming snow season, and \$600,000 in Character 02 for salt and other supplies needed.

Councillor Abdullah moved, seconded by Councillor Moriarty Adams, to send Proposal No. 535, 2006 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Williams recognized Jimmy White of the Finance Division for his help in putting together these proposals.

PROPOSAL NO. 536, 2006 - approves an appropriation of \$400,000 in the 2006 Budget of the Department of Public Works, Operations Division (Solid Waste Collection Fund), for overtime expenses incurred in support of snow and ice removal, neighborhood clean-ups, other staffing issues, and to replace funds expended as part of the Weed Enforcement Program

Mr. Williams stated that \$150,000 of this appropriation would be in Character 01 to replenish funds used for snow removal and neighborhood clean-ups earlier in the year. The other \$250,000 is for Character 03 to replenish funds for the Weed Enforcement Program.

Councillor Mahern asked what percentage of fines assessed does the City receive for weed violations. Patrick Holdsworth, Administrator of the Operations Division of DPW, stated that the City receives approximately 95% of the money they spend on weed enforcement back, so that the program essentially pays for itself. He said that not all of that money, however, is collected immediately. About half of those cited for violations will comply and cut their weeds or grass before the City comes back out to re-inspect. Of the other half that are cited, whose weeds the City does cut, approximately a half of those simply pay the bills the City issues. Only about a fourth of those who are cited actually have to be pursued through Sheriff's auctions or liens on their properties later down the line. Councillor Mahern said that he appreciates the department's work in this area.

Chairman Conley asked how the department handles collecting money from those who do not comply or pay their bills. Mr. Holdsworth stated that those fines are added onto property tax bills. If a property owner does not pay their taxes through three cycles, which is about a year and a half, then a lien can be placed on the house and it can be auctioned off to help pay those taxes and those fines. He said that a property owner can still pay their taxes and fines and get the lien taken off.

Councillor Abdullah said that some of his constituents have questioned the time frame from the receipt of the first notice until the City comes and cuts their grass, and says that it does not give them a lot of notice. Mr. Holdsworth said that it used to take months for the department to get around to following up on notices and therefore, some citizens may be relying on past precedent. According to State statute, the City can go back within 11 days after the property owner receives notice to cut the weeds. He said that the department waits 10 days after receipt of the notice, and then goes back to re-inspect. They are really trying to monitor this compliance better and are getting the weeds cut a lot quicker by increasing their vendors from one to nine. He added that six of the nine vendors are minority and women owned businesses (MBE/WBE). Councillor Abdullah said that there is a lot of difference between 30 days and 10 days, and they need to let people know that the turnaround time has gotten faster. He said that it will take a little bit of an adjustment period for citizens to get used to this more efficient service.

Chairman Conley said that he receives lots of calls from constituents regarding weed enforcement, and one call in particular regarding a house that is extremely hard to sell because of unsightly weeds at the neighbor's property. Mr. Holdsworth said that the homeowner needs to call the Mayor's Action Center (MAC) to report the violation. The department tries to routinely monitor areas, but cannot be aware of every situation and relies on those citizen reports. He added that repeat offenders can be put on a re-cut list, where the department does not have to issue a second 10-day notice, but can simply assess further fines and re-cut the weeds immediately upon inspection. He said that the property owner would then realize a hefty amount of fines on their taxes or lien in order to keep their property.

Councillor Moriarty Adams moved, seconded by Councillor Mahern, to send Proposal No. 536, 2006 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 537, 2006 - approves a transfer of \$110,000 in the 2006 Budget of the Department of Public Works (Stormwater Utility Management Fund and Sanitation Liquid Waste Fund) to purchase a van and equipment for televising and inspecting storm and sanitation sewers

Mr. Williams stated that this proposal involves no new money, but simply shifts money from Character 03 to Character 04 to purchase a van and all the televising and inspecting equipment needed to equip that van to go into the sewers and take pictures of water flow to aid engineers in making decisions. He said that the actual cost of the van and equipment is estimated at approximately \$150,000, but there are already some funds available in Character 04 to add to this appropriation.

Chairman Conley asked if the department will be able to negotiate on the price of that van. Mr. Williams said that after the approval is granted to transfer this money, they can then enter into negotiations for the best price possible.

Councillor Mahern stated that with such an expensive vehicle, he hopes the department takes great steps to maintain and protect it. Mr. Williams said that the last inspection van is 10 years old and has had many failings due to wear and tear. He hopes the new vehicle will realize the same life span, and they do provide routine maintenance to keep the vehicle in top working order.

Councillor Keller added that the estimated expense also includes the televising equipment, which can be a large percentage of the cost.

Councillor Moriarty Adams moved, seconded by Councillor Abduallah, to send Proposal No. 537, 2006 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 538, 2006 - authorizes parking restrictions on Delaware Street from St. Clair Street to 9th Street (Districts 9 and 15)

Nathan Sheets, project planner for DPW, stated that the businesses on the 800 block of North Delaware requested this change to 90-minute parking. Most of these businesses do not have off-street parking, and the parking restriction would allow for greater turnaround in customers, instead of tying up these spaces for several hours.

Councillor Abdullah stated that this proposal affects his district and he is in complete support of it. He moved, seconded by Councillor Mahern, to send Proposal No. 538, 2006 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

[Clerk's Note: Councillors Abdullah and Keller left at 5:37 p.m.]

UPDATE on Snow and Leaf Season – Patrick Holdsworth and Margie Smith-Simmons, Department of Public Works

Mr. Holdsworth stated that although there is no way to predict the weather and what kind of snow season lies ahead, he has had meetings with National Weather Service personnel, and they are predicting a less-than-normal winter. He stated that Marion County has 7,300 lane miles, of which 4,200 are plowed by the City. The department has 91 snow plows and uses 75 of those designated in particular areas with 15 to 16 floater trucks that can be used in trouble areas. He said that with a large snowfall, 180 drivers are needed in 12-hour shifts. The City has seven salt barns with over 26,000 tons of salt. An average winter produces 27 to 28 inches of snow, and the cost per inch of snow removal is \$110,000.

Chairman Conley asked in the case of a large snowfall of 12 inches, if it would then cost the City over \$1,300,000 to remove that snow. Mr. Holdsworth said that this is correct, and the City spends, on average, \$4.7 million a year for snow removal.

Mr. Holdsworth added that the department consults with SSI Meteorologics and the National Weather Service, as well as local media, regarding forecasts to help with decision-making with regards to snow removal. He said that they also have 10 road sensors throughout the county, and have 13 companies on contract, with 160 additional trucks to use on an as-needed basis. In a snowfall, they start with the inbound and outbound roads and the downtown area, and then go to secondary thoroughfares, such as 56<sup>th</sup> Street, that are well-travelled crossroads. He said that they also provide salt to all fire stations and have primary routes to hospitals and some schools. He said that citizens will often notice trucks pre-salting before a snowstorm arrives. Pre-salting helps so that the snow does not bond to the street and become ice. It keeps the snow slushy, so that the trucks can easily remove it. He said that citizens might also notice that they have switched from the formerly used brown salt to green

salt. The brown salt contained molasses, and there is currently a copyright suit over that type of salt. Therefore, the City is now using a green salt, which contains magnesium chloride. The green color is simply added so that drivers can see that the salt is actually being laid down.

Margie Smith-Simmons, Public Information Officer for DPW, stated that the department is putting the finishing touches on the web application to show how routes are plowed and which streets are prioritized. She added that the application will also show which streets the Indiana Department of Transportation (InDOT) is responsible for plowing.

Mr. Holdsworth said that last year, the City had 27 inches of snow, which is a pretty average winter, and he feels the department did well with snow removal and keeping traffic mobile and safe.

Chairman Conley asked if the department keeps contractors on stand-by and is aware if they have trucks available if needed. Mr. Holdsworth said that they stay in touch with their contractors throughout the year, and while these companies serve other clientele, such as department store parking lots, the contracts stipulate that the City streets have priority due to public safety issues.

Mr. Holdsworth stated that the leaf collection program is a part of "Recycle Indy," and the City will pick up to 30 bags of leaves each week to make into compost. He said that the leaf pick-up period this year runs from November 6 to December 1, 2006. He said that the bags of leaves should be left out near the trash bags, with the total number of bags not exceeding 40 bags. Chairman Conley said that he often wondered about homes he had seen with so many bags and thought there was a smaller limit. He said that it is good to know the amount that can be picked up. Ms. Smith-Simmons stated that the City picks up 18 million pounds of leaves each year.

Councillor Mahern encouraged citizens to take advantage of this program, as it also keeps leaves out of the sewers.

Chairman Conley thanked Mr. Holdsworth and Ms. Smith-Simmons for their presentation. There being no further business, and upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Lonnell Conley, Chairman